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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

SOVIETS DEVELOP BACKWARD AREAS

[Numbers in parentheses refer to the list of sources.]

Tuva Autonomous Oblast

In 1944, when Tuva People's Republic became Tuva Autonomous Oblast, significant industrial, agricultural and sociological changes took place. In 1947, nomads who formerly built temporary yurts on the plains in Tandinskiy Rayon decided to build houses along the banks of the Turgen River. "Chogatay" Kolkhoz, composed of 68 households, was formed. It is one of a hundred kolkhozes which have been organized during the past few years in Tuva. During its 2 years of existence, "Chogatay" has become well settled. It is electrified, and has about 400 hectares of land sown with grain. A school, bakery, bathhouse, stable, and cowshed have been built. Each family is plentifully supplied with grain and milk and meat products.

Construction work is expanding from year to year. During 1949 - 1950, the Soviet government provided Tuva Autonomous Oblast with 250,000 cubic meters of lumber on long-term credit.

The 1949 year plan for construction includes the building of 10 kolkhozes, 1,200 dwelling houses for kolkhoz workers, 38 schools, many clubs, village reading rooms, bathhouses, over 200 kolkhoz carpenters' shops, sheds for agricultural machines, and other buildings. The plan is being completed successfully.

The changes which have occurred during the past 5 years have completely transformed the appearance of the landscape. New machines have been introduced. Formerly, the only tool used by the arats (nomadic farmers) was a knife. Now the arat has at his disposal tractors and combines; he is a locksmith and carpenter, mechanic and chauffeur.

Education and culture are advancing. Talented workers and representatives of science, culture, and art are now found among arats, who before 1930 did not even have an alphabet. The Tuva Dramatic Theatre presents Russian classical plays, such as "Molodaya Gvardiya" (Young Guard) performed in the Tuva language. Hundreds of

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arats study in secondary educational institutions which have been opened during the past few years. Among them are an agricultural technical school, a pedagogical institute, and a kolkhoz school. Many students are attending Leningrad University and higher educational institutes in Moscow, Novosibirsk, and Irkutsk. A department of the Union of Soviet Writers has been opened in order to spread political and scientific knowledge.(1)

Novosibirsk Oblast, RSFSR

The Barabinskaya Steppe, located between the Irtysh and Ob rivers, covers a large area and is rich in natural resources. It has vast expanses of rich meadowland and pastures; its forests have many wild animals; the huge peat bogs contain large accumulations of peat; and its lakes and rivers abound in fish and waterfowl. In the future, the development of the livestock and dairy industries will be the main task of agriculture in Baraba.

In past years, this area was considered useless. The stagnant condition of the huge lowland basin hindered the proper utilization of the rich food resources and the development of productive livestock raising. Only after the large-scale introduction of remedial measures, undertaken after the October Revolution, was it possible to utilize the pastures and food-growing areas of the steppe for agriculture. Kolkhozes and sovkhoses of its 70 administrative rayons in a very short period of time constructed numerous drainage canals which drained thousands of swamps. This greatly aided the steppe's development. The steppe began to provide the country with millions of tons of grain and hundreds of thousands of pud of first-quality vegetable oils per year.

The war retarded the steppe's development and resulted in changes. In February 1944, the Council of People's Commissars stated in a decree that the basic branch of agriculture developed in the Barabinskaya Steppe should be the raising of dairy cattle, with specialization in butter and cheese production. Four years later in 1948 the Council of Minister USSR adopted a special decree which stated that Baraba should become the largest center for the dairy and butter industries in the Soviet Union. This was followed by the Stalin Three-Year Plan for the development of livestock raising.

Since the war, Baraba has progressed a long way in carrying out its task of drying up the swamplands and converting them into pastures and meadowlands. The successful completion of this work will make it possible to create a stable food base and also to increase the number of head of thoroughbred cattle. With the number of livestock increasing, it became necessary to construct new barns, sheds, and other dwellings and to remodel old ones. This construction is now widespread throughout the steppe. In 1949, five MTS were erected in order to aid the building up of a stable food base. These stations are to cut and harvest grain, sow grass, dig canals, drain swamps for pastures, establish new forests, and improve roads. So far, in Kyshtovskiy Rayon, 19 kilometers of the Aryntsash-Bashkul' Canal have been repaired; in Chulymskiy Rayon, a canal connecting Lake Itkul' and the Chulum River has been completed; and in Mikhaylovskiy Rayon, 6 kilometers of the Izlinskiy Canal have been repaired. A total of more than 100 kilometers of canals, which will make it possible to drain 4,500 hectares of land, have also been repaired.

Construction work is progressing on all levels. In the city of Kuybyshev, a new teachers' institute has been opened; and in the village of Kargat, a new creamery has been put into operation. In Kozinskiy Rayon, a new pontoon bridge has been built across the Om' River; and in Kozino, a new sovkhos hotel has been opened. In the village of Kochki, the rayon branch of the Association for the Dissemination of Political and Scientific Information has been created; in Tatarsk, 450 new standard-type houses have been built and a children's music school has been opened; and in the village of Berezhovka, Kyshtovskiy Rayon, electricity and controllable loudspeakers have been installed. At present, there are in the Barabinskaya Steppe about 100 well-equipped mechanized plants with production processes completely electrified. -- M. Avtomanov, Novosibirsk.(2)

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Tadzhik SSR

Since the beginning of Soviet rule, Tadzhikistan has been radically transformed. Cotton fields now replace fields of wild tugai (an Asiatic xerophyte); electric power plants have appeared in mountain passes; industrial buildings have been constructed.

Lemons are being grown for the first time in central Asia although the project is still in the experimental stage. Experiments in raising citrus fruits were first conducted in the Vakhsh Zonal Station of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute for Dry Subtropics. In 1949, lemon sets brought by airplane from Georgia were planted in rows specially prepared by kolkhoz and sovkhoz workers of Vakhsh, Gissarskiy, and Fergana valleys. Most of the sets grew. In a few years, citrus fruits should be growing successfully in Turkmen and Tadzhikistan.

Tadzhikistan scholars, in conjunction with kolkhoz workers, are working to introduce bogara, a type of grain grown in central Asia on nonirrigated dry land. This work is only beginning. In the near future, hundreds of hectares of mountain slopes will become fruitful gardens.

As in the rest of the Soviet Union, the plan for the transformation of nature is being carried out in Tadzhikistan. A large part of the population has been drawn into the work of planting new forest belts, since forests in Tadzhikistan play an important role in protecting fields, orchards and vineyards from destructive winds and dust storms. The new forests will protect the fertile soil from erosion and will furnish lumber for building material. At present, lumber for the republic's expanding construction work has to be carried long distances. The creation of new forest areas close to the construction work will reduce transportation and save much time.

During the next 4-5 years, forestry planting on the spurs of the Gissarskiy Range will be completed. Forest zones must also be planted in the semidesert areas of the republic and in the valleys of the Syr-Darya, Vakhsh, Yakh-Su, Kzyl-Su, and other rivers. Tree planting in towns and villages is also progressing on a large scale.(3)

Sarezskoye Lake in Central Tadzhik SSR is an important source of irrigation for much of the republic. This lake was formed in February 1911 by an earthquake which caused a landslide to block up the Murgab River in the middle of the Pamir Mountains. The lake is now 60 kilometers long, nearly 2 kilometers wide, and 500 meters deep at its deepest point near the dam. Great quantities of water flow under the dam and into the Bartang River, which is a tributary of the Pyandzh and the Amu Darya rivers. In 1936, a hydrometeorological station was set up near the lake to study the Sarezskoye and Shadaukul' lakes and the Murgab and Bartang rivers. One of the principal tasks of the station is to study the role of Sarezskoye Lake as an enormous reservoir playing a great part in regulating the natural flow of the Amu-Darya River, which in turn irrigates the fields of Tadzhikistan. The station also makes meteorological observations.

Future study of this lake may aid in its utilization for the industrial and agricultural requirements of the Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast in the Tadzhik SSR.(4)

Before long, the entire republic of Tadzhikistan will have complete electrification.(3)

Chukchi National Okrug

Ayon Island, located at the mouth of Chaunskiy Bay in Chukot National Okrug, has been undisturbed for centuries. Utilization of the island and its large areas of rich pasture land, which are suitable for reindeer breeding was considered only recently. Kolkhoz workers of "Enmitagin" agricultural artel drove in reindeer and built enclosures for them. The herd began to multiply rapidly. At present, there are several thousand head of reindeer on the island.

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Kolkhoz workers are successfully engaged in catching sea animals. Recently, over 1,000 seals were caught in a very short period of time.

Construction work on the island is also progressing. Komsomols and young workers have built a school and are now drawing up plans for the erection of homes.(5)

Yakut ASSR

The settlement of Medvezhka is located above the Arctic Circle near Ambarchik Bay. It is the base of the successful nomadic kolkhoz, "Turvaargin." Since the time that reindeer herders began to live in houses instead of yurts, kolkhoz members with the aid of Arctic dwellers in Ambarchik Bay have built an electric power plant and have installed electricity in the houses.(6)

SOURCES

1. Vechernyaya Moskva, No 286, 3 Dec 49
2. Zarya Vostoka, No 219, 6 Nov 49 and Krasnaya Zvezda, No 276, 23 Nov 49
3. Kommunist Tadzhikistana, No 230, 23 Nov 49
4. Vokrug Sveta, No 11, Nov 1949
5. Vechernyaya Moskva, No 277, 23 Nov 49
6. Vechernyaya Moskva, No 296, 16 Dec 49

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